

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 00746 181816Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 /062 W  
-----046002 190950Z /15

R 181759Z JAN 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4889  
INFO USINT HAVANA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 00746

FROM THE CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC, CU  
SUBJECT: UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: CONVER-  
SATION WITH CUBAN AMBASSADOR LECHUGA

REF: STATE 10992

1. DURING A SOCIAL GATHERING IN HONOR OF THE DEPARTING  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, PRINCE SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN,  
I HAD OCCASION TO CHAT BRIEFLY WITH CUBAN AMBASSADOR  
CARLOS LECHUGA HEVIA, WHO WAS ONE OF THE VICE CHAIRMEN  
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION LAST YEAR AND WHO, AS THE  
DEPARTMENT KNOWS, IS VERY MUCH AU COURANT ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
MATTERS.

2. REFERRING TO OUR INTEREST IN CREATING A UN HIGH  
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, I NOTED THAT WE DO NOT  
REGARD THIS PROPOSAL AS DIRECTED AGAINST ANY PARTICULAR  
COUNTRY OR BLOC BUT RATHER TO CREATE A MORE EFFECTIVE  
MECHANISM WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS.  
I NOTED THAT CUBAN AND US INTERESTS ARE CONSONANT IN  
MANY AREAS AND I ASKED WHETHER IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE THAT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 00746 181816Z

CUBA COULD SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL AS WELL.

3. AMBASSADOR LECHUGA RESPONDED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THE  
GOVERNMENT OF CUBA WOULD BE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE  
CREATION OF ANY SUPRA-NATIONAL INSTITUTION WHICH COULD  
INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN STATES.  
I SAID THAT THE PROBLEM IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS WAS

THAT THE VIOLATORS ARE INVARIABLY STATES AND I ASKED  
HOW THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUAL HUMAN BEINGS ARE THEN TO BE  
PROTECTED IF NO MECHANISM EXISTED WHICH COULD CALL THOSE  
GOVERNMENTS TO TASK WHICH WERE THE OFFENDERS.

4. AMBASSADOR LECHUGA REPLIED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, THE WAY  
TO DO THIS WOULD BE TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING INSTITUTIONS.  
I AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE DESIRABLE TOO AND EXPRESSED  
THE DEVOUT HOPE THAT THE 1503 PROVISION WOULD PROVE TO BE  
A MORE WORKABLE MECHANISM THIS YEAR IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION THAN IT HAS IN THE PAST. AMBASSADOR LECHUGA  
AGREED, BUT WITH NOT MUCH ENTHUSIASM. SORENSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, AMBASSADORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978GENEVA00746  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780028-0561  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** GENEVA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780151/aaaabqsc.tel  
**Line Count:** 73  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** c2b6cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 10992  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3757137  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: CONVER- SATION WITH CUBAN AMBASSADOR LECHUGA  
**TAGS:** SHUM, CU, UNHRC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c2b6cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014